

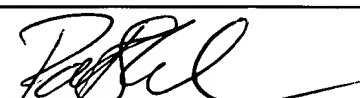


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RCE/1646#

<b>REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</b>  Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	Application Number	09/508,510
	Filing Date	May 26, 2000
	First Named Inventor	Tschope et al.
	Group Art Unit	1646
	Examiner Name	Mertz, Prema Maria
	Attorney Docket Number	2923-495
<b>This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.</b> Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.		

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 Note: if the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).
  - a. ☐ Previously submitted
    - i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Enclosed
    - i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
    - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declarations
    - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
    - iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. Miscellaneous
  - a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.170(i) required.)
  - b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.
  - a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.
    - i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F. R. § 1.17(e) \$770.00
    - ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17) \$110.00
    - iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ \$880.00 \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.
  - c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed.)

<b>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED</b>			
NAME AND REG. NUMBER	Patrick T. Skacel, Reg. No. 47,948		
SIGNATURE		DATE	3/23/04



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/508,510 Confirmation No.: 7619  
Applicant/Inventor: Tschope et al.  
Filed: May 26, 2000  
TC/A.U.: 1646  
Examiner: Mertz, Prema Maria  
Attorney Docket Number: 2923-495  
Customer No.: 6449

**AMENDMENT**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

March 23, 2004

Sir:

In connection with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being filed concurrently, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below and on the following pages. This Amendment and RCE are being submitted in lieu of an Appeal Brief, and in response to the June 26, 2003 Final Office Action and the January 8, 2004 Advisory Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants timely filed a Notice of Appeal on December 23, 2003, thereby setting a due date of February 23, 2003 for submission of an Appeal Brief. A petition for a one-month extension of time extending the due date to March 23, 2004 accompanies this Amendment and RCE, and thus, the reply is being timely filed. Finally, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered in lieu of the previously unentered Amendment of October 27, 2003.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.